



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

**NICK COLLINS**  
**REPRESENTATIVE**  
4TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT

Committees on:  
Economic Development &  
Emerging Technologies  
Children, Families and  
Persons with Disabilities  
Elder Affairs

March 24, 2015

ROOM 26, STATE HOUSE  
TEL. (617) 722-2080

Dr. Stuart Altman, *Chair*  
Massachusetts Health Policy Commission  
50 Milk Street, 8th Floor  
Boston, MA 02109

## **Re: ICU Patient Limit Law Regulations**

Dear Chairman Altman:

As the Health Policy drafts regulations for the implementation of Chapter 155 of the Acts of 2014, *An Act relative to patient limits in all hospital intensive care units* (Mass. Gen Laws c. 111, § 231), I would like to provide a bit of background into the history behind this new law.

As you may know, the legislative intent was to establish a one-to-one patient to nurse assignment with the ability to move to a two patient to one nurse assignment based on the stability of the patients. Any move from a two-to-one patient to nurse ration must be approved by the direct care nurses in the Intensive Care Unit, with the assistance of an acuity tool. Please note that the use of any acuity tool was intended to supplement, not replace, the clinical judgment of the staff nurses.

The Massachusetts Legislature unanimously passed his legislation to protect our state's most vulnerable patients and, as such, any regulations derivative of this act should be consistent with the clear legislative intent of the law.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nick Collins".

NICK COLLINS  
*State Representative*